

COUNTRY / Anglo-Egyptian Sudan  
SUBJECT Disturbances, and Violence Connected  
With the Sudan Railroad Strike  
PLACE  
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1. During March 1948, disorders broke out in many parts of the Sudan. On 12 March a procession was organized in Khartoum by the youth of the Unionist Party as a protest against the setting up of a Legislative Assembly and an Executive Council in the Sudan. They marched through the streets of Khartoum in the fashion of the demonstrators in Egypt, shouting familiar slogans. The leaders of the demonstration addressed the crowd, denouncing the government plans. The most persistent agitator was Abd-al-Munim Hassaballa, leader of the Unionist Youth. The procession proceeded to the Khartoum Workers' Club. There were shouts of "Long Live the Workers" followed by applause and cheers. The leaders of the demonstration assured the workers that the nations stood solidly behind them. Following this the police broke up the demonstration and arrested a few of the leaders, including Hassaballa. Hassaballa was tried the next day and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment for attempting to endanger the public peace.
2. The Workers' Affairs Association prior to the railroad strike announced that it would be conducted peacefully. There was no violence at first and there appeared to be no adverse reaction on the part of strikers to the employment of contract labor. Later strikebreakers reported that they had received threatening letters.
3. Hasan Ibrahim, a laborer, was the first to be apprehended for assaulting a non-striker. Thereafter, such cases increased. There was a disturbance between strikers and strikebreakers at Port Sudan. At Malakal an angry crowd seized the District Commissioner and mishandled him. Atbara, the administrative and operational center of Sudan Railways, was the scene of severe rioting, although news of the disturbances was completely suppressed. The first volunteer-manned train from Atbara was attacked by a crowd at Shendi Station and arrived at Khartoum with all its windows broken.
4. Numerous cases of sabotage occurred. The Wadi Halfa power station was set on fire. Trains manned by volunteers were damaged. A serious attempt was made to set on fire 200 drums of highly explosive ammonia nitrate which arrived at Port Sudan on 15 March on the SS RANCHER. The Workers' Affairs Association sent a mission of three men from Atbara to Port Sudan for this purpose, but the cargo was kept under heavy guard and was taken away from the port in a special convoy.

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